

March 9, 2022

To: Transportation Committee Chairs and Members

Re: Support of SB 4

I support SB4 in particular two components:

I support the e-bike subsidy for low-income residents. E-bikes can replace car trips when people need to transport cargo or children and when the trip includes more hills or miles than they might pedal on their own. I note, however, that most decent quality, environmentally friendly e-bikes cost more than \$2,000 and recommend that the price cap be \$3,000. Twenty percent of the US's car trips are one mile or less, and fully one-third are two miles or less. These distances are easily biked. To meet our climate change goals, we need to get out of our cars. Access to e-bikes for low-income families is an important part of the equation.

Second, I support the climate mitigation component of SB4. In particular, I support the use of mitigation funds to support infrastructure that promotes active transportation—biking and walking. In particular, Connecticut should prioritize connectivity in highly traveled routes and in low-car neighborhoods. This creates a greater likelihood that those connections being used for transportation, commuting, and car-trip replacement. Most of our cities do not have safe, separated cross-city bicycle routes. Investment focused on urban and near-urban areas is timely as well as economically and environmentally just.

Sincerely,

Mary Cockram

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